

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Child Hygiene Covers Wide Field

The following article by Dr. Ellen S. Stadtmuller, Chief of the Bureau of Child Hygiene of the California Department of Public Health, is reprinted from the December Bulletin of the California League of Women Voters:

"Since the cessation of the federal support for infancy and maternity, there has been a gradual change in the policy of the Bureau of Child Hygiene in regard to its field work. The change has been made from nursing to medical service and was brought about by the fact that most rural counties able to support a nursing service had been supplied with such a service during the period of the federal aid. Another reason for the change was the gradually increasing demand from field nurses and communities alike for medical direction to the work of the nursing service.

Physicians have been added to the staff of the bureau from time to time until, at present, there are four full-time physicians working in the field conducting well baby conferences and holding consultations with mothers on prenatal care. In addition to the latter type of prenatal work, two prenatal clinics have been started under the auspices of full-time county health units—one in the north and one in the southern end of the state. Our physicians are visiting thirty-four counties regularly each month, additional conferences being held in other counties at irregular periods.

One nurse is giving full time to the inspection of all institutions and homes receiving cases for confinement care. There has been a gradual increase in the state of the percentage of women going to hospitals for confinement so that during a survey made preliminary to the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection, it was ascertained that 50 per cent of

the women in the state were confined in such institutions.

Occasionally educational projects are undertaken, such as lecturing before county medical societies on the newer medical methods in prenatal care; institutes for nurses on the same subject have been conducted, and a study was made covering all maternal deaths in 1928. There are continual requests for talks before women's groups, which are either assigned to the regular staff or met by the chief of the bureau. As the demand arises, exhibits are placed in fairs and expositions, illustrating the distribution and the type of work carried on by the bureau.

With the cooperation of one of the large women's organizations, an annual campaign is conducted in the spring for the examination of the fall's entering first graders. Each year approximately 12,000 children are in this way given a complete physical examination and their parents are able to ascertain their needs in corrective medical work, in hygiene, as well as their present physical status.

With all this work there are many areas of the state in which the bureau is not able to carry on systematic work. These areas are served through the mail and a very large amount of literature is distributed on request to individuals and official and nonofficial agencies. The monthly prenatal letter and infant care letter service which was started some years ago has been increasing steadily so that in the neighborhood of 7000 sets of these letters are distributed annually.

The latest undertaking of the bureau has been the addition to the staff of an expert on posture who is traveling to the well baby conferences endeavoring to prevent the development of this defect found to be very widespread among all children. She is also

opening her conferences to those children in special need of corrective posture exercises, including those presented by the school departments in their lower grades.

JULY 1, 1929-JUNE 30, 1930 (12 Months)

Examinations by staff physicians:

First examinations	7,283
Return examinations	3,534
Total examinations	10,817

Maternity hospitals and homes:

Licensed hospitals inspected	247
Licensed homes inspected	108
New hospitals inspected	52
New homes inspected	26
Investigations	108
Talks by staff	179
Approximate attendance	7,000
Literature distributed to physicians, nurses, schools, and lay people, by request	131,237
Sets of prenatal letters to doctors, nurses and mothers	4,678
Sets of infant care letters	4,404

JULY 1, 1930-NOVEMBER 30, 1930 (5 Months)

Examinations by staff physicians:

First examinations	3,664
Return examinations	1,190
Total examinations	4,854

Maternity hospitals and homes:

Licensed hospitals inspected	118
Licensed homes inspected	65
New hospitals inspected	8
New homes inspected	20
Investigations	42
Talks by staff	38
Approximate attendance	3,542
Literature distributed by physicians, nurses, schools and lay people, by request	68,034
Sets of prenatal letters to doctors, nurses and mothers	2,277
Sets of infant care letters	1,430

OCTOBER 21, 1930-NOVEMBER 30, 1930

Posture expert:

Conferences	31
Individuals	1,097

HOURLY NURSING SERVICE EXPANDS

The Oakland Visiting Nurse Association finds that people of moderate means are calling for their hourly nursing service and paying for the time the nurse is actually in the home carrying out the physician's orders. Instead of nursing patients by the day they are nursing them by the hour.

During the past year the association has built up its service. The records show that the increase in calls to home during the first ten months of 1930 has been 47 per cent greater than during the same months of 1929. This demand for nursing in the home, by the hour, indicates its popularity among people of moderate means.

He is not only idle who does nothing, but he is idle who might be better employed.—*Socrates*.

AUTOMOBILE DEATHS INCREASE

Automobile deaths in California increased 3.8 per cent in number during the first nine months of 1930, as compared with the first nine months of 1929. This represents an actual increase of 60 deaths. There were 1595 automobile deaths during the first nine months of 1929 and 1655 such deaths during the first nine months of 1930. This means that during the present year an average of six persons have been killed by automobiles every day in California.

More than one-third of all automobile deaths that occurred during the first nine months of 1930 involved motor vehicles and pedestrians. There were 543 such deaths, as compared with 446 deaths which involved motor vehicles, only. It would seem, therefore, that the pedestrian remains as the greatest single hazard in fatal automobile accidents. There were 345 deaths which involved noncollision accidents, such as overturning, running off the road, skidding over embankments and similar accidents in which excessive speed may have been a factor.

The numbers of deaths in automobile accidents which involved street cars and automobiles show considerable increase during the present year. There were 40 such deaths in 1929, as compared with 63 such deaths in 1930. This represents an increase of 57.5 per cent. There is evidence that the safety campaigns which have been conducted so vigorously in California are bearing fruit, as there has been a considerable reduction in the number of deaths of children under fifteen years of age in automobile accidents. There were 200 deaths of children under fifteen years of age from this cause in the first nine months of 1929, while there were but 170 such deaths during the first nine months of 1930.

AUTOMOBILE DEATHS

(January to September, inclusive.)

	1929	1930	Increase	Per cent
Automobile	1482	1517	35	2.3
Automobile and railroad	73	75	2	2.7
Automobile and street cars	40	63	23	57.5
Totals	1595	1655	60	3.8

	1930 Only	Deaths
Motor vehicle and pedestrian	543	
Motor vehicle and motor vehicle	446	
Motor vehicle and bicycle	20	
Motor vehicle and horse-drawn vehicle	2	
Motor vehicle and animal	3	
Motor vehicle and fixed object	126	
Nonoperating accident	32	
Noncollision-operating accident	345	
Total	1517	

I'd rather have a fool to make me merry than experience to make me sad.—*Shakespeare*.

PROFESSOR WINSLOW WRITES OF HEALTH

The following is taken from the chapter entitled "Health," by Professor C. E. A. Winslow of Yale University, as published in Dr. Beard's "Whither Mankind":

"Nor does the modern public health movement involve subjection to a soul-destroying type of social control; quite the contrary. From the sacred books of Persia onwards the life of primitive people has been shadowed by taboos of a mixed medical and religious origin. Irksome quarantines and brutal treatment of the leper and the mental case darkened the life of the Middle Ages. The modern public health movement itself began in large measure as an exercise of police power. Regulations enforced by the strong arm of the law and dealing with the sanitation of the physical environment dominated this movement from its inception in 1840 almost to the end of the last century. The isolation of communicable disease and the protection of the public against smallpox by vaccination were accomplished by compulsion.

"Today, however, all this is changing. The problems of modern public health are subtler and more difficult of accomplishment; and we recognize that they can be attained only by enlisting the voluntary and intelligent cooperation of the individual. Education replaces compulsion. The public health nurse supplants the sanitary policeman; and with the most fortunate results. The marvelous success obtained by immunization against diphtheria with toxin-antitoxin has been achieved without a single law interfering with personal liberty.* When one case of smallpox occurred in the city of New Haven last spring (with three others in surrounding towns) 102,000 persons were vaccinated within a week in a city of 185,000 population, with no legal compulsion whatsoever.

"The modern public health movement is not, then, based on autocratic dictatorship but on democratic education of a free and intelligent people by the force of expert leadership."

HEALTH CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

The fiscal year ended June 30, 1930, was a relatively favorable year throughout the world. The general death rate was, as a rule, less for that period than for the corresponding period of the preceding year and approaching the unusually low death rate of the year ended June 30, 1927, according to the United States Public Health Service.

Throughout the Northern Hemisphere influenza and pneumonia were at low levels during the year.

Of minor importance with regard to the total number of cases, but of great interest because of the nature and severity of the disease, was the epidemic of psittacosis which occurred in the winter of 1929-1930. Between 350 and 400 cases were reported throughout the world, with a case fatality of 35 to 40 per cent. The disease appeared more or less simultaneously on three continents—Europe, South America and North America. In January, 1930, a number of countries had prohibited the importation of parrots, and the epidemic subsided.

The cholera situation in most countries where that disease is prevalent has been relatively favorable during the year. A considerable epidemic of cholera occurred in the spring of 1930 in the central provinces of India, but the situation elsewhere in India was relatively favorable. Cholera was reported in the Philippine Islands in May, 1930. At the close of the fiscal year the disease had appeared in Manila and in several islands in the central part of the archipelago, and the number of cases was increasing. Cholera has appeared in the Philippine Islands frequently during recent years, but the epidemics have not assumed the devastating proportions which formerly characterized the disease there.

During the fiscal year plague appeared in certain African centers near Mediterranean trade routes. In northern India, which has hitherto furnished more cases than all the remainder of the world combined, there has been almost constant improvement since 1924.

Yellow fever was reported from the west coast of Africa and from Brazil and Colombia in South America during the year.

According to available reports, the general situation with respect to typhus fever was unusually favorable.

In a number of countries, including India, England and Wales, and the United States, a larger number of cases of smallpox were reported than during recent preceding years.

The healthy know not of their health, but only the sick.—*Carlyle*.

A man too busy to take care of his health is like a mechanic too busy to take care of his tools.—*Cicero*.

MORBIDITY*

Diphtheria.

61 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Fresno County 1, Fresno 1, Brawley 1, Los Angeles County 2, Glendale 2, Los Angeles 14, Montebello 1, Madera County 1, Marin County 1, Orange County 3, Fullerton 2, Orange 2, Riverside County 1, Riverside 2, Sacramento 1, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco

*From reports received on December 22nd and 23rd for week ending December 20th.

4, Watsonville 2, Yuba City 2, Tulare County 10, Porterville 1, Marysville 1.

Scarlet Fever.

84 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Oakland 3, Colusa County 4, Fresno County 2, Fresno 1, Glenn County 2, Los Angeles County 11, Compton 2, El Segundo 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 14, Montebello 1, Hawthorne 3, Signal Hill 1, Alturas 3, Napa 1, Nevada County 2, Riverside County 6, Riverside 3, San Diego 1, San Francisco 4, San Joaquin County 3, Santa Clara County 7, San Jose 1, Tulare County 1, Dinuba 1.

Measles.

223 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda 4, Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Bakersfield 5, Los Angeles County 1, Azusa 7, Burbank 1, Glendora 5, La Verne 1, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 2, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 5, Torrance 1, Fullerton 3, Riverside County 75, Riverside 1, Ontario 27, San Diego 20, San Francisco 1, San Luis Obispo County 2, Arroyo Grande 4, San Luis Obispo 16, Tulare County 9, Visalia 15, Ventura County 10.

Smallpox.

54 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Alameda 2, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 6, Glenn County 1, Napa County 3, Napa 11, Daly City 3, Vallejo 5, Stanislaus County 9, Riverbank 1, Tulare County 5, Porterville 7.

Typhoid Fever.

10 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Colusa County 1, Lake County 1, Long Beach 1, Sacramento

County 1, Hollister 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1, Ventura County 1, California 1.**

Whooping Cough.

86 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Berkeley 3, Oakland 7, Los Angeles County 16, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 8, Monrovia 3, Whittier 1, South Gate 1, Plumas County 15, Riverside 1, San Diego 5, San Francisco 13, Stockton 8, San Luis Obispo County 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 1.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

5 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Amador County 1, Los Angeles County 1, San Francisco 1, Visalia 2.

Poliomyelitis.

19 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Fresno County 2, Los Angeles County 2, Merced County 1, San Francisco 6, Paso Robles 2, San Luis Obispo 2, San Jose 1, Stanislaus County 1, Yolo County 1.

Leprosy.

Corona reported one case of leprosy.

Trichinosis.

2 cases of trichinosis have been reported, as follows: San Francisco 1, San Bruno 1.

**Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1930				1929			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Dec. 20 received by Dec. 23	Week ending			Reports for week ending Dec. 21 received by Dec. 24
	Nov. 29	Dec. 6	Dec. 13		Nov. 30	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	
Actinomycosis.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botulism.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chickenpox.....	240	387	508	167	294	414	453	228
Coccidioid Granuloma.....	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	0
Diphtheria.....	80	66	70	61	86	101	85	78
Dysentery (Amoebic).....	1	0	5	5	2	0	0	2
Dysentery (Bacillary).....	7	2	7	4	78	0	0	1
Encephalitis (Epidemic).....	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0
Erysipelas.....	13	7	14	8	16	15	20	11
Food Poisoning.....	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	0
German Measles.....	9	10	6	6	7	11	6	9
Gonococcus Infection.....	156	145	197	138	114	135	122	110
Hookworm.....	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Influenza.....	45	69	50	73	69	77	86	42
Jaundice (Epidemic).....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Leprosy.....	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Malaria.....	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1
Measles.....	195	270	234	223	145	192	319	216
Meningitis (Epidemic).....	3	7	5	5	8	7	21	10
Mumps.....	137	220	229	111	298	408	428	265
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever.....	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Pellagra.....	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	0
Pneumonia (Lobar).....	70	85	61	74	136	96	121	66
Poliomyelitis.....	28	13	16	19	3	3	1	1
Rabies (Animal).....	29	18	22	18	14	16	13	16
Scarlet Fever.....	102	108	111	84	346	360	404	223
Smallpox.....	32	43	52	54	41	40	65	39
Syphilis.....	211	162	203	165	122	149	130	155
Tetanus.....	1	0	3	0	1	2	0	0
Trachoma.....	4	1	7	2	3	1	2	1
Trichinosis.....	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
Tuberculosis.....	155	250	231	139	184	187	177	152
Tularemia.....	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Typhoid Fever.....	11	17	5	10	10	7	5	8
Typhus Fever.....	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Undulant Fever.....	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	1
Whooping Cough.....	106	109	116	86	89	101	108	71
Totals.....	1,641	1,992	2,159	1,459	2,078	2,360	2,572	1,712

Chickenpox shows a sharp decline.

Animal rabies continues its menacing status.

Smallpox shows a slight increase.

Mumps is fifty per cent less prevalent.

Trichinosis has appeared again.